

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Lucille Schacht

DATE: May 14, 1999

RE: CRT clients in trouble with the law

The Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project recently received data sets from the Vermont Center for Justice Research at Norwich University that include information on all individuals charged with criminal offenses in Vermont for 1993 through 1997. These data sets provide a more complete picture of people who get into trouble with the law than the incarceration data sets that we have used in the past. These data will be particularly useful for our new Multi-State Performance Indicator Project which specifically lists arrest rates among its core indicators. The data sets will also support production of outcome measures that focus on criminal justice involvement as recommended by the Vermont Advisory Group.

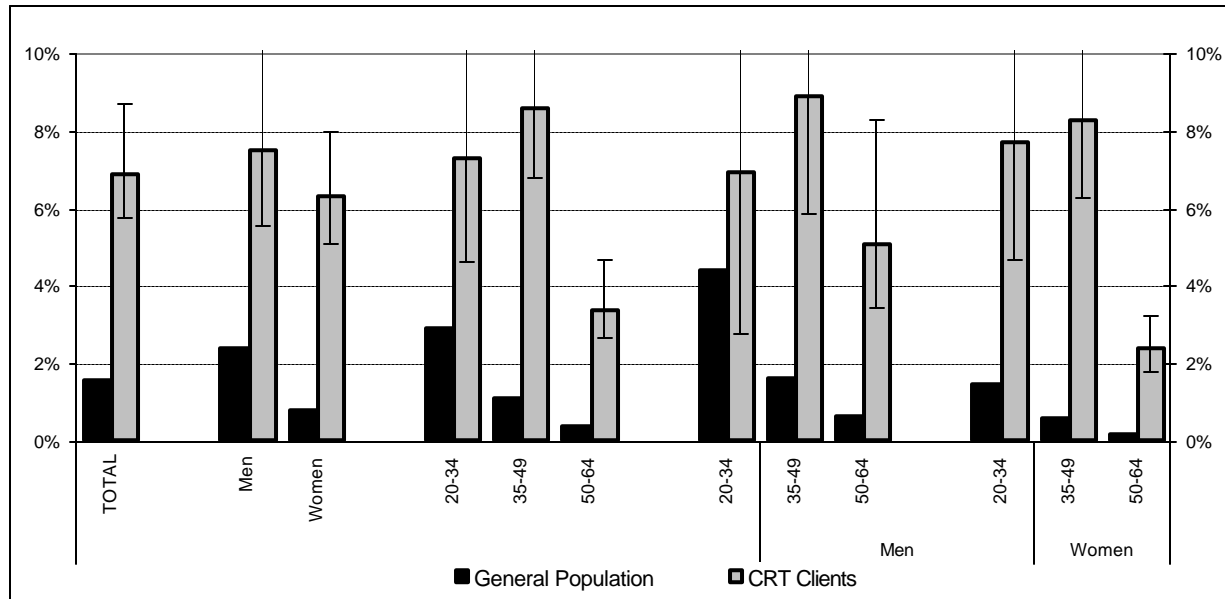
This week's performance indicator examines arrest rates during 1997 for people who were served by CRT programs in Vermont during 1996. Arrest rates are provided for CRT program participants as a whole, and for CRT clients in age and gender categories. All rates are compared to arrest rates for other residents of the State of Vermont in the same age and gender categories. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation is used to determine arrest rates.

As you will see, people who had received services from CRT programs were much more likely to be arrested than other residents of the state (6.8% of CRT clients vs. 1.6% were for others). Male CRT clients were somewhat more likely than female clients to be arrested (8% vs. 6%). Older clients (age 50+) were substantially less likely to be arrested (3% vs. 7% and 9% for younger adults).

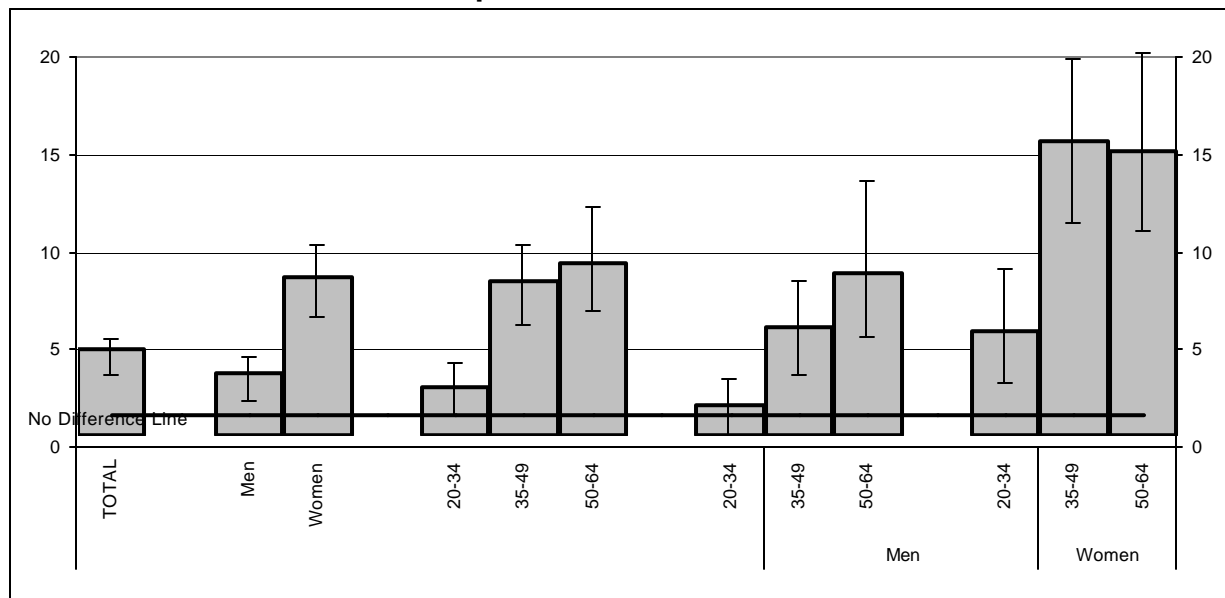
One of the most interesting findings of this analysis relates to the variation in relative risk of arrest among age and gender groups. Women and older CRT clients had substantially greater elevated risk of arrest, than men and younger CRT clients. Overall, CRT clients were more than 4 times more likely than other Vermonters were to be arrested. CRT women, however, were 8 times more likely than other women to be arrested compared to an elevated risk of 3 for men. Older CRT clients were almost 9 times more likely to be arrested than other older residents of the state, compared to an elevated risk of only 2.5 for CRT clients under the age of 35.

We look forward to your comments, questions, and suggestions regarding further analysis of these data. Please call (802-241-2638) or e-mail to [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

## 1997 ARREST RATES 1996 CRT Clients and Other Residents of Vermont



## ELEVATED RISK OF ARREST CRT Clients Compared to Other Residents of Vermont



	Total		Men		Women		Age 20-34		Age 35-49		Age 50-64	
CRT %	6.8%	(6%-9%)	7.5%	(6%-11%)	6.3%	(5%-8%)	7.3%	(5%-13%)	8.5%	(7%-11%)	3.4%	(3%-5%)
Other Residents %	1.6%		2.4%		0.8%		2.9%		1.1%		0.4%	
Elevated Risk	4.4	(3.7-5.5)	3.2	(2.4-4.6)	8.1	(6.6-10.3)	2.5	(1.6-4.3)	7.9	(6.3-10.4)	8.8	(7-12.3)

	Men						Women					
	Age 20-34		Age 35-49		Age 50-64		Age 20-34		Age 35-49		Age 50-64	
CRT %	6.9%	(3%-15%)	8.8%	(6%-14%)	5.1%	(3%-8%)	7.7%	(5%-13%)	8.2%	(6%-11%)	2.4%	(2%-3%)
Other Residents %	4.4%		1.6%		0.6%		1.4%		0.5%		0.2%	
Elevated Risk	1.6	(0.6-3.5)	5.5	(3.7-8.5)	8.3	(5.7-13.6)	5.3	(3.3-9.2)	15.1	(11.5-19.9)	14.6	(11.1-20.2)

Information on clients assigned to CRT programs during 1996 from the DDMHS quarterly service report database. Information on people arrested during 1997 from the Center for Justice Research database. The overlap between these two databases was measured using Probabilistic Population Estimation. Point estimates and 95% confidence intervals are provided for all probabilistic estimates. An elevated risk of 1 would indicate no difference in arrest rates for clients of CRT programs and other residents of Vermont. An elevated risk of 5 would indicate that CRT clients are 5 times as likely as other residents to have been arrested.